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Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



Fall ushers in the changing of the season, along with changing the clocks. When you change your clock, change the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors. This is a great time to hit the test button on all hardwired and sealed 10-year smoke alarms to make sure they are functioning properly. We recommend testing smoke alarms once a month. Having a fire-safe home should be a top priority!

Thanksgiving is upon us and that means many people will be working overtime in their kitchens. According to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data, cooking is the leading cause of house fires and home fire injuries. U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 166,100 home fires per year involving cooking equipment.

Thanksgiving is the leading day for home fires involving cooking equipment, with four times the average number. Ranges and cook-tops account for almost three of every five reported home fires involving cooking, with ovens accounting for 13%.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when preparing food, not just during the Thanksgiving and Holiday season.

- Never leave food that you are frying, boiling, grilling or broiling unattended! If you leave the kitchen, even for a short amount of time, turn off the stove.
- Frying a Turkey has become more popular in recent years.
 - o Make sure to not overfill oil in the fryer. Fill the pot you plan to use to fry the turkey with water and place the turkey in. This will help to determine how much oil is needed without causing oil to spill out when you are ready to fry.
 - O Use the turkey fryer outdoors ONLY!
 - o Make sure the turkey is completely thawed before frying.
 - Use long cooking gloves that protect hands and arms when you handle the pot!
- Create a "Kid Free Zone" of at least three feet around the stove or anywhere you are preparing hot food or drinks.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stove top.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you when food is ready.
- If there is a fire in the oven, keep the door shut and turn off the heat.
- Smother small flames in a pan by sliding a lid over the pan. Turn off the burner and leave the lid over the pan while it cools.
- If you have any doubt fighting a small fire, just get out! Call 9-1-1 or your emergency number from outside the home.

OSFM wants to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving season.

Employee Spotlight



Kyle Blakeman

Where are you originally from? Springfield, IL Favorite food(s)? Lasagna

Hobbies? Golf, Volleyball, Piano and Coaching Baseball

What's your favorite movie or book? Favorite Movie is either Gladiator or Dances with Wolves

When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers? Top 40 or Country

What did you want to be when you were a kid? Professional baseball player What's your favorite part of the job? My co-workers.

What's something unique about you? I have traveled a lot and know how to find cheap deals to anywhere.

Where is your favorite place to vacation? Anywhere that has a golf course or casino, preferably both.

Where is your bucket list destination? Durham, NC to see a Duke vs. North Carolina college basketball game before Coach K retires.

Fire Prevention Week 2019





Sullivan Fire Department

OSFM was active in spreading the fire prevention message during Fire Prevention Week 2019. Office staff took a few minutes out of their day to pose for a photo with the Fire Prevention Week banner that was outside their Springfield headquarters. OSFM visited Sullivan and Litchfield with the proclamation from Governor Pritzker showcasing their dedication to fire prevention. Departments from across the state sent in photos of them visiting with students and teaching fire





Herrick Fire Department



Litchfield Fire Department

Fire Prevention Week 2019



OSFM's Chief of Operations
Dale Simpson visited with 3rd
and 5th grade students at St.
Aloysius in Springfield during
Fire Prevention Week. Students
learned about how to create a
fire safety plan, how and when
to stop, drop and roll and other
important fire safety
information. Chief Simpson's
visit was special as his
Granddaughter is in the class.



Chief Simpson & Mr. Ochs



Chief Simpson & his Granddaughter



Mrs. Babb and a 3rd Grader trying on Chief Simpson's Helmet



Fire Prevention Week 2019



Teutopolis FPD speaking to Teutopolis Grade School Kids





Elementary



WHEREAS, the 2019 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Not Every Hero Wears A Cope - Plan and Practice Your Escape," effectively serves to educate the public about the vital importance of escape plans in case of fire:

THEREFORE, I, IB Pritsker, Governor of the state of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2019, as Fire Prevention Week in Illinois and urge citizens to plan ahead in case of a fire emergency and to participate in the many public safety activities and efforts offered by Illinois fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2019.

WHEREAS, planning two escape routes can provide an alternate exit in case a primary option is unsafe for escape; and,

In Witness Wherent, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Desse White
ECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this ______ day of _____ october ____, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
_______ and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and _______

158AD GOVERNOR

Great Shake Out Earthquake Drill



The Great Shake Out Earthquake Drill was held on October 17th at 10:17 AM. OSFM employees joined thousands of other people across the Midwest and country participating in the drill. Drop, cover and hold on is being demonstrated by OSFM employees in the photos. If you didn't have time to participate in the drill, take a few moments to consider these safety tips. Earthquakes do occur in the Illinois and OSFM encourages everyone to be prepared and review your emergency plans frequently.













Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Conference



The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Conference was held October 14th through 17th in Peoria. Representative Bennett arranged a meeting with OSFM and Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) representatives, along with members of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, to discuss ways to improve communication between the fire service and IDOL. OSFM and IDOL are committed to working together to make fire departments aware of the safety requirements that are in place and help them achieve and maintain compliance.



OSFM also had a booth in the exhibitor hall with staff available to answer questions from conference attendees.



OSFM congratulates Quincy Fire Chief Joe Henning for being named 2019 Fire Chief of the Year by the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.



Down and Dirty Weekend at IFSI





OSFM's Cathy Stashak teaching School Inspector Class



PS&E staff attended training and answered question.



The 129th annual Illinois
Firefighter's Association
Down & Dirty Firefighting
Weekend was held at IFSI
October 25th and 26th.
Firefighters had many
different options for hands-on
and classroom training, which
was focused on small and
volunteer departments.
Lodging was funded through
OSFM for participants for the
purposes of supporting
firefighter training.

OSFM staff was also on hand to teach Public School Inspection Class and Life Safety Codes.

IFSI Fall Fire Academy Graduation





Illinois Fire Service Institute held a graduation ceremony for 37 graduates from their 7-week resident F all fire academy. Fire Marshal Perez spoke to the graduates and offered his congratulations and thanked them for their dedication to the fire service and communities they will protect.







OSFM Boiler Division Safety Conference







OSFM Boiler Division Safety Conference was held at the OSFM Springfield office on October 28th and 29th.

The Division of Boilers and Pressure Vessel Safety regulates the construction, installation, operation, inspection and repair of boilers and pressure vessels throughout the state of Illinois. Due to the potential risks and hazards involved with the usage of boilers and pressure vessels, the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act was adopted to safeguard the citizens of Illinois.

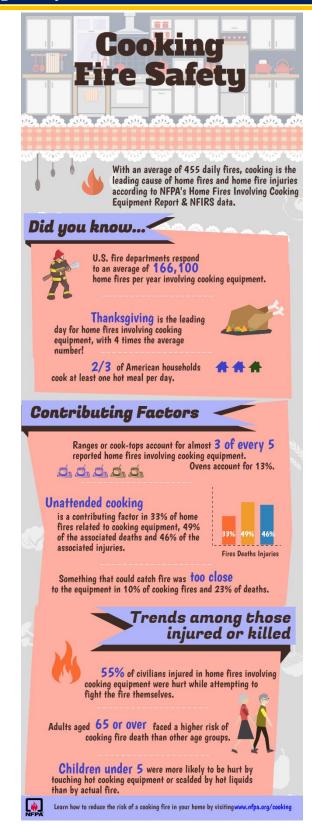
Boilers and pressure vessels are used for various applications in all types of locations: schools, hospitals, churches, factories, day care centers, restaurants, dormitories, libraries, municipal buildings, refineries, chemical plants, prisons and many other facilities. Currently there are over 100,000 boilers and pressure vessels registered and inspected on a routine basis by authorized commissioned inspectors.

Cooking Safety

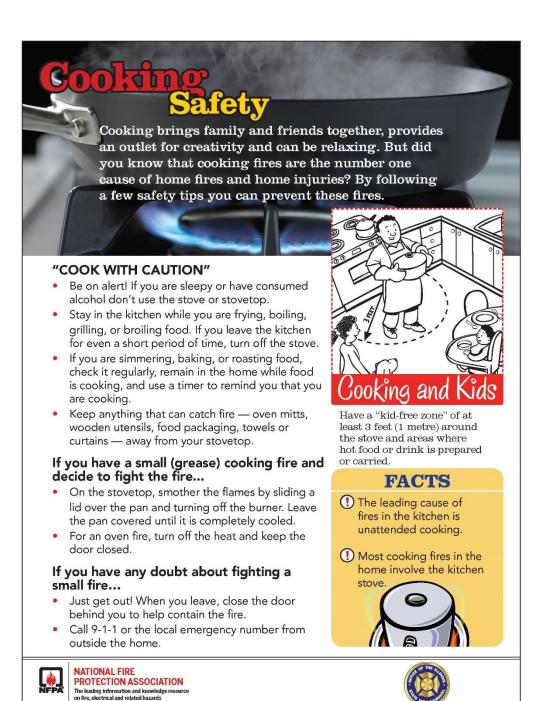
Thanksgiving is right around the corner and that means people will be busy in the kitchen preparing for the big meal. According to the NFPA and NFIRS data, cooking is the leading cause of home fires with an average of 455 fires daily. Thanksgiving Day leads the way with peak number of house fires due to cooking.

Cooking Fire Safety Stats

- Never leave your oven or stove unattended when cooking! Ranges and cook tops account for almost three out of five reported home fires involving cooking equipment. Ovens account for 13% percent of all those fires.
- Unattended cooking is a contributing factor in 33% percent of home fires related to cooking equipment.
- Children under 5 were more likely to be hurt by touching hot cooking equipment or scalded by hot liquids than actual fire.
- 55% of civilians injured in home fires involving cooking equipment were hurt while attempting to fight the fire themselves
- Adults 65 and older are the highest risk group when it comes to cooking fire deaths.



Cooking Safety



nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2018

Cooking Safety

Prevent a Turkey Fryer Fire



Did you know?

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires.

When you fry foods, you increase the risk of a cooking fire.

Keep in mind the potential dangers of deep frying a turkey:

- Turkey fryers can easily tip over spilling hot oil across a large area. Use your turkey fryer only outdoors on a sturdy, level surface well away from things that can burn. Make sure to have a "3-foot kid- and pet-free zone" around your turkey fryer to protect against burn injuries.
- An overfilled cooking pot will cause oil to spill over when the turkey is placed inside. Determine the correct amount of oil needed by first placing the turkey in the pot with water.
- A partially frozen turkey will cause hot oil to splatter. Make sure your turkey is completely thawed before you fry it.
- Turkey fryers can easily overheat and start a fire. Check the temperature often with a cooking thermometer so the oil won't overheat.
- The pot, lid and handles of a turkey fryer can get dangerously hot and cause burn injuries. Use long cooking gloves that protect hands and arms when you handle these items.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit **www.usfa.fema.gov.**









Be Alarmed Smoke Detector Awareness Elgin Event





"Be Alarmed!" is a fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program administered cooperatively between Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) and OSFM. The program distributes fire safety educational materials and 10-year concealed battery smoke alarms to fire departments in Illinois. The fire departments then deliver the education and install of smoke alarms in at-risk homes within their communities. Educational materials and smoke alarms are provided at no cost to fire departments as a result of funding from IFSA and OSFM.

The goal of the program is to:

- Educate residents, young and old, on fire safety and prevention methods
- Reduce the number of fire-related injuries
- Reduce the number of fire-related deaths
- Identify the reason for non-functioning smoke alarms in homes across the state

More information can be found by visiting:

https://www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms

Fire Marshal Perez attended a "Be Alarmed" smoke alarm event in Elgin on Wednesday, October 23rd. Members of the media learned about the Be Alarmed program. After the media event, members of the Elgin Fire Department and elected officials canvassed the block to make sure residents had proper working smoke detectors.



Left to Right: Rep. Anna Moeller (D-Elgin), Fire Marhsal Perez and Sen. Cristina Castro (D-Elgin)



Blended Basic Operations Firefighter Pilot Class







Photos Courtesy: Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI)

Blended Basic Firefighter pilot class members are halfway through their training. This blended style academy is geared toward volunteer firefighters who have full time jobs and can't attend a residency academy. The blended class is 18 weeks long and allows participants to do their classroom work online during the week and nine weekend practical or hands-on trainings. OSFM has provided a grant to the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) for Illinois students to attend at no cost for lodging during weekend hands-on training for the pilot course.

The Blended Basic Operations Firefighter course is designed to give new firefighters the practical and cognitive training needed to operate safely and effectively on the fire ground. Upon successful completion of the course, students will meet OSFM, ProBoard and IFSAC NFPA Firefighter I requirements for certification.

The next Basic Operations Firefighter Blended Academy begins on January 4th, 2020. OSFM has appropriated agency funds to provide training to Illinois students and departments at no cost! Weekday classroom training will be done by students online with three training sites selected across the state for weekend hands-on training. The goal is to limit the travel by students to do their nine weekends of hands-on training.

More information about this program can be found by visiting IFSI's website or click the link below.

https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/description.cfm?course_id=1064

OSFM Congratulates St. Charles Fire Chief on his Retirement



OSFM congratulates St. Charles Fire Department Chief Joe Schelstreet on his 33 years of service and wish him the best in retirement.





Making a Difference

I wanted to extend a thank you to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Yesterday, Chet Janus went above and beyond so that we could get our most critical elevator back into service. There is a long history with this elevator going back to 1965 when the elevator was first placed into service. This elevator has been out of service for 7 or 8 weeks.

The elevator inspector from Stuard & Associates as well as Chet agreed to stay last night until the elevator was placed back into service. This was at my request.

Their willingness to stay and allowing us to safely place the elevator back onto service is much appreciated.

Thank you, Karl Kane John Deere

Way to Go

On behalf of the O'Fallon Police Department, I want to express our sincere appreciation for Special Agent Greg Vespa and his contribution to O'Fallon's Night to Unite on October 1, 2019. Special Agent Greg Vespa and his partner Ross dedicated their time and effort to provide our citizens with a K9 demonstration for the fifth year in a row.

Special Agent Vespa and Ross were one of the major highlights of the event and their demonstration added a great educational element.

Please forward Investigator Vespa our gratitude. He has obvious dedication to his office and community and his support helped make this a great event.

Respectfully, Chief Eric Von Hook Director of Public Safety O'Fallon Police Department



I would first like to tell you what a wonderful team you have working in your in PS&E division. I as a newer Fire Chief have relied heavily on the contacts I have made in the OSFM. I would like to congratulate you on having such wonder staff and thank you for gearing things more towards the volunteer side of the fire service. I first contacted Mitzi Woodson in 2018 at the Volunteer/ Combination Fire Officer conference in Bloomington Illinois. She was tremendous help to me. This year at the same conference she put me in contact with Joseph Holomy who came to my department and helped walk me through all of PS&E and then explained a lot of other stuff that as fire chief I had grave concerns over. He was a big help and showed me a lot that will aid me in taking the department I am currently serving with to a better place and to offer a better service to my community and the surrounding communities. So, my hat is off to you and the Fire Marshal's office for offering such wonderful guidance and services to all departments in Illinois whether they are career or volunteer. Also, if you ever need an advocate for the OSFM contact me and I can speak to how well your office treats all departments.

Thank you,

Bryant Briggs III Fire Chief Smithboro Fire Proteciton District



Kids' Corner



Sparky's Thanksgiving Conversation Starters



What's your favorite food?



Chocolate or vanilla ice cream?



When is the last time you tested your smoke alarms? (Smoke alarms need to be tested once a month.)



If you could meet anyone, who would it be?



Do you have an outside meeting place in case of a fire?



What holiday is your favorite, and why?



If only one animal could talk to you, what would it be?



Where do you feel the happiest?



If you could travel in time, where would you go?



Describe the person sitting next to you in five words.



SPARKY" IS A TRADEMARK OF THE NFPA.

CHECK OUT SPARKY.ORG FOR MORE FUN!

Kids' Corner

